

**LIBRARY OF CONGRESS OFFICE  
NAIROBI, KENYA**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**FISCAL YEAR 2012  
(OCTOBER 1, 2011 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2012)**

**COVERING**

**ANGOLA, BOTSWANA, BURUNDI, CAMEROON,  
COMOROS, DR OF CONGO, DJIBOUTI,  
ERITREA, ETHIOPIA, GABON, GHANA, KENYA,  
LESOTHO, MADAGASCAR, MALAWI, MAURITIUS,  
MAYOTTE, MOZAMBIQUE, NAMIBIA, REUNION,  
RWANDA, SENEGAL, SEYCHELLES, SOMALIA, SWAZILAND,  
TANZANIA, UGANDA ZAMBIA AND ZIMBABWE**

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AND**

**THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS OFFICE, NAIROBI STAFF**

## NAIROBI OFFICE HIGHLIGHTS FY2012

### Trends:

The financial recession seems to be affecting many African NGOs and government agencies in terms of their production of print publications. Ever more frequently we are told on acquisitions trips to “check the website” for annual reports and other publications instead of receiving print copies of reports and monographs. Consequently, office statistics for acquisitions are falling slightly each year and we have to work harder to find fewer print publications.

We are also noticing that many banks, legal publishers and statistical offices are charging significantly higher prices for their publications. Others are limiting the number of copies we are “gifted” or allowed to purchase to the extent that it is affecting our ability to provide documents for our regional programs for Law, Human Rights, and Statistics.

The two-year freeze on salaries has adversely affected morale in this embassy and office. Kenya has suffered significant inflation over the past two years, but it is not considered hyper-inflation worthy of an exception to the government-wide wage freeze. Consequently, embassy and LOC staff members have seen their purchasing power decline leading to dissatisfaction in the workplace.

Although staff numbers and salaries are frozen, LOC headquarters has asked that we expand our services to the Library by assuming new tasks that are increasingly difficult for LC Washington to manage as staff retire and are not replaced. This year we have added serials check-in, whole book cataloging, and acidity testing to our portfolio of services.

### Statistical comparisons:

					% Change
Total acquisitions compared	FY11	98,604	FY12	97,994	- 0.7
Total items cataloged	FY11	3,867	FY12	3,849	- 0.4
NARS created	FY11	1,565	FY12	1,618	+ 3.5
Books for DTOC:	FY11	595	FY12	619	+ 5
Serials checked-in	FY11	0	FY12	1,484	+1,484
Security/Ownership tag:	FY11	2,329	*FY12	22,990	+ 888

\*Only counted security strips, not ownership stamps

### Most Notable Programs:

Providing shelf-ready materials to LOC is a major goal of this office. This year our cataloging team received “independent” status for social sciences subject analysis, classification and single-digit shelf listing/cuttering putting us three rungs on the ladder closer to providing shelf-ready monographs to LOC.

During the second quarter, the receiving clerks and serials librarians were trained to perform all aspects of serials check-in for all serial issues coming into the office. Nearly 1,500 holdings and item records were created as a direct result of this training. The COIN office, Judith Cannan, Joan Weeks and our computer specialist George Kuria are to be especially commended for this successful distance-education training. Another rung closer to shelf-ready services!

The office team is now testing all monographs for acidity using pens supplied by the Preservation Directorate. We are also affixing white dots to monographs that have been fully cataloged. Two more rungs!

The staff began in earnest to familiarize themselves with RDA by reading materials made available in June/July.

#### **Acquisitions:**

A grand total of 97,994 items was processed by the office for both LOC and the AfriCAP participants. Of this total, 36,786 were for LOC and 61,208 for the participants. The materials acquired were in 39 different African and world languages.

Some 26 posters were hand carried to AMED and P&P when the FD went to WashDC for a conference.

#### **Services to LC and the world of Cataloging:**

As our catalogers gained independence this year in subject analysis and classification for the social sciences and single-digit cuttering, it means that catalogers the world over will be getting Africana whole book cataloging from LC much more quickly than in the past—in general within 2-4 months rather than 1 or 2 years. A giant step forward!

#### **Service to CRS, LAW, AMED:**

We continue to send .pdf Namibia *Gazette* updates to Law. All three get nearly daily updates of Kenyan and Ethiopian media reports generated by the Public Affairs Section. In all, this totals to about 550 electronic documents sent to these sections of LC.

#### **Digitized Table of Contents Project:**

LOC Nairobi continues to contribute to the Digitized Table of Contents (DTOC) project. This year some 619 titles were digitized for the project, an increase of 24 titles when compared to the previous year.

#### ***Quarterly Index to African Periodical Literature:***

We attempted to find a new, improved home for this useful research tool. The African Studies Centre of Leiden is interested in incorporating the QIAPL into their periodical index, AfricaBib. A preliminary agreement has been drafted to this effect and is still pending.



**Services to the Scholarly Community:**

The AfriCAP program continues to be popular with the academic library community although each year a few drop out due to financial considerations and a few new members join. For the current 31 participants, LOC/Nairobi sent some 61,208 print and non-print items.

When we announced that we had to cut many Africana newspaper subscriptions (over 40) because the New Delhi Office did not have sufficient funds to microfilm them and we did not have the space to stockpile them, the reaction was swift. At CRL's request, LOC/Nairobi quickly supplied CRL with data that would assist the participants to pick up the titles LOC/Nairobi had to cancel.

**Services to LC/CRL/CAMP for Newspaper Preservation:**

Three proposals were submitted to CAMP and all were approved: Senegal newspaper project for \$10,284; the Nation (Malawi) project for \$10,284 and the Mololi (Lesotho) project for \$4,200. The grand total comes to \$24,768 from CAMP this year to support Africana newspaper filming for LOC and the scholarly community.

**Public Service Outreach:**

Acquisitionist and library school student, Alfred Odhiambo, gave a presentation at the XXth Standing Conference of Eastern, Central and Southern Africa Library and Information Assoc. about "Evaluation of the Use of Computerized Information Resources in Public Libraries in Kenya."

The office received an entourage of librarians from the Kenya Technical Teachers College who were interested in learning about the LOC Nairobi operations.

We continued our internship program for Kenyan library school students with five students this year. Two staffers working on higher degrees also interned within the office and one interned in the Public Affairs Section's American Library.

The FD participated in the African version "StoryMoja" of the worldwide annual Hay Festival and did a presentation for the "Start a Library" group at the event. She focused on motivating kids to read using games, activities and internet websites to tie-in with specific books.